

DURRANT EXAMINATION

He Appeared in Court Yesterday and Dull-Eyed.

A GHASTLY PLEA OF EVIDENCE

The Indictments Are That No Fight Will Be Made for the Prisoner in the Police Court.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 22.—Theodore Durrant gave a further exhibition of his extraordinary imperturbability today. It was during his preliminary examination for the murder of Minnie Williams before Police Judge Conlan. The prosecution had introduced in evidence a large photograph of the dead girl. It was a ghastly thing, showing her in her casket, stripped, with the hideous wounds in her head, breasts and wrists. The purpose of the picture was probably to illustrate the savagery that attended the murder.

So ghastly was it that the lawyers, in showing it to the witnesses to identify it as the dead girl, only unrolled enough of it to show the face. In course of its introduction it was handed to Durrant's lawyers, Thompson, Dickinson and Dempsey, who looked it over carefully, even their faces showing horror at it.

Durrant sat behind his lawyers. When the picture was unrolled on the table before them he leaned back, looking at it curiously. Not a muscle of his face changed. There was no livid expression of horror, recognition or anything else. It might have been the cover of a law book for all the impression it produced on the man who was there to answer for the infliction of these wounds.

Durrant did not look well today. The anxiety, the confinement or some other cause has removed the color from his face, and he appeared before Judge Conlan yellow and dull-eyed. He sat in the big crowd which filled the Mexican street to watch him as he was brought from the cell to the court room, and to look him. But although physically, as he obviously was, he gave no sign of weakness.

The testimony at the preliminary examination embraced nearly everything brought out at the inquest and considerable new testimony. The strict rules of evidence interfered with the hearsay testimony received in the inquiry of the coroner; no mention was made of the statement of Minnie Williams to the coroner that Durrant had tried to strangle her. The names of a number of school girls that day Durrant met at Emmanuel church after 8 o'clock on the Friday night Minnie Williams was murdered, was also introduced. That is a flat contradiction of Durrant's tale of his movements. District Attorney Barnes, assisted by Prosecuting Attorney Wakeman, examined the witnesses for the prosecution. General Dickenson, for Durrant, the regular examination, another long nor energetic. The indications of the fight will be made for the prisoner in the police court, but that the defense will simply make the prosecution expose its case as far as possible, taking it for granted that the case went to the superior court anyway.

Mrs. Morgan, with whom Miss Williams lived in Alameda, was called to the stand. She said that she last saw Minnie Williams on the morning of the 13th instant; that she had told her she was going to Miss Williams' home. She knew Durrant well, and had visited at his house last summer, and he stayed half an hour. She could not identify him in photographs as that of Miss Williams.

Charles H. Morgan, husband of the preceding witness, said the girl was counted as one of the family; he could not identify faces shown in photographs either; also failed to identify the person found in Durrant's overcoat pocket.

Here the name of A. E. Williams, father of the dead girl, was called, but in his place a young woman rushed to the stand and said that no one should testify before her. She gave the name of Williamson and said that she would be the one to judge Durrant, and ordered him released. The police tried to remove her, but she would not let them, and left the stand voluntarily, after some words. She handed the following letter to the clerk:

"To the citizens of the city and county of San Francisco; to the public officials—Respected Gentlemen: The coming woman, gifted with high spiritual power, and for whom the world is waiting, stands before you. She is obliged to make herself known first in the police court of San Francisco, for she has come to judge the heart of man and woman through wisdom given by Christ. No man in the city and county of San Francisco is worthy to sit in judgment during the trial of Theodore Durrant; therefore, I, Louis LaGoud Williamson, do declare with the authority of God, that the law must be brought to a close with the reading of this letter. No statement must be made by any person, to any court. Theodore Durrant or any other man guilty for murder, I, Louis LaGoud Williamson, through the spirit of God, do declare Theodore Durrant found innocent before judgment, before God, and henceforth responsible for his actions. With the greatest respect to all parties and justice to the prisoner, Theodore Durrant, I am yours, LOUIS L. G. WILLIAMSON."

A. E. Williams then took the stand, and identified the purse found in Durrant's overcoat as one he had given his daughter.

Sergeant Burke identified a bunch of keys as one found in the pocket of Durrant's overcoat, with the exception of the death key, which he said had been given him by George King on April 13th. Burke then took of the finding of the body of Minnie Williams in the book closet of the library, identified the pieces of the young woman's underclothing which had been taken from out of her throat, where they had been thrust; the broken pieces of the table knife found on her, and the stick which had been used by the murderer in forcing the stems of clothing down the girl's throat. He also testified to the condition of the library door, the lock of which had been broken. Sergeant Burke then gave a bit of sensational evidence which has not come out before today. He said that when he, in company with other officers, examined the lavatory or washroom in the back part of the church, just in the rear of the pulpit, he saw bloodstains on the washbasin and the wall just above it. Sergeant Reynolds, in charge of the searching party, had called his attention to this.

Sergeant Parker identified a bunch of keys as one found in the pocket of Durrant's overcoat, with the exception of the death key, which he said had been given him by George King on April 13th. Burke then took of the finding of the body of Minnie Williams in the book closet of the library, identified the pieces of the young woman's underclothing which had been taken from out of her throat, where they had been thrust; the broken pieces of the table knife found on her, and the stick which had been used by the murderer in forcing the stems of clothing down the girl's throat. He also testified to the condition of the library door, the lock of which had been broken. Sergeant Burke then gave a bit of sensational evidence which has not come out before today. He said that when he, in company with other officers, examined the lavatory or washroom in the back part of the church, just in the rear of the pulpit, he saw bloodstains on the washbasin and the wall just above it. Sergeant Reynolds, in charge of the searching party, had called his attention to this.

Sergeant Parker identified Durrant as the young man who had called to her and two friends on Mission street near Twenty-second April 12th, on the night Miss Williams was murdered. She said he was agitated. He had mistaken her for someone else. Another girl who was with her corroborated her evidence, but could not identify Durrant, though she identified the coat and hat he wore.

The place where the girls say they saw Durrant is about two blocks from the church. They said they saw him between 9 and 9, or 10, or 11 o'clock.

The other witness of the day was Mrs. Mary McCay, a housekeeper, who testified that she saw a man and a young woman near Emmanuel church between 7:30 and 8 o'clock on April 13th. They appeared to her to be lovers. The man was urging the girl to accede to some proposition, and the girl seemed to be coaxing him not to insist. Just as she passed them she heard the man say, "You are a coward." The man was dressed in a long overcoat and dark soft hat. The examination goes on the morning.

A NEW WITNESS.

Another witness who saw Minnie Williams inquired to her death in Emmanuel church has been found by the police, and like other witnesses, he describes Durrant as the man in company with the unfortunate girl. James P. Hodgdon, an employe of the Southern Pacific Company, is the new witness. He says that on the Friday night Miss Williams was murdered he saw at 8:15 o'clock a man and woman about 200 feet from the church and going in that direction. The woman, who was unusually small, was hanging back and the man was coaxing her.

The police action were so peculiar that Hodgdon called across the street and took a careful look at them. Then he walked to a cigar stand a short distance away, and when he came back in a few minutes the couple had disappeared. The description Hodgdon gave of the man answered Durrant, and when the prisoner was brought before him he said Durrant was undoubtedly the man, though he was under the impression that the man he saw was taller than Durrant. That appearance of tallness might be owing to the slight, short figure in contrast with that of the man, the man being slightly delinquent with his appearance, and now claim that he has a chain of evidence that cannot be broken, that will show that Durrant was seen with Miss Williams near the church shortly after 8 o'clock, at the time Durrant said he was on the way to the signal corps armory.

G.A.R. ENCAMPMENT.

THE OLD SOLDIERS RECEIVE A HEARTY WELCOME.

The Annual Parade Will Take Place Today—Preparing for Future Business.

San Francisco Supervisors Remov-

ing Office Holders.

SACRAMENTO, April 22.—Grand Army men have been coming into the city all day, and now bluecoats are met on every block by the scores. The visitors were met by the reception committee and assigned to rooms secured for them, after which they strolled about the city, visiting points of interest and renewing old war acquaintances.

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Tomorrow forenoon the annual parade will take place. It is expected to be a brilliant affair. Governor Budd and his staff will be mounted and will review the column at the conclusion of the parade. Department Commander J. M. Walling of Fresno City, presides over the G.A.R. encampment.

On Wednesday morning the veterans will all attend the Chinese opera house, or many of them as can get inside. No one will be admitted except veterans. On Wednesday night the veterans will be given a banquet in the state exposition building, and on Thursday an excursion will take place to the foothills, the American river, water power, the mines, the state prison, orchards and vineyards in the vicinity of Polson.

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